



**Site Visit Programmatic Questions
Positive Alternatives 2016
Helping Hand Pregnancy Center – May 20, 2016**

1. Update/ Demographic Reporting

- Review your two most recently submitted Update/Demographic Reports: are you meeting Report Count Goals?
Yes, program goals are being met consistently.
- Note any significant differences between the reports: are your programs stable? Improving? What do the reports indicate about progress in your programs?
Helping Hand has had stable PA programming through this grant cycle.
- Any questions on the recording of data on either form?
We reviewed the recording of quarterly reporting as there has been some confusion on the reporting of services provided on the quarterly demographic reports by some of the grantees.

2. Work Plan

- Review your 2012-16 grant application's description of the program you requested to be funded. Note the services and activities you said you would provide and the number of clients you would serve.
- Please prepare a **short summary of your current program(s) and the number of clients being served.** Address these topics:
 - a. How does what you describe in the application compare with what you are currently providing?
 - b. Have any programs and/or activities or services been added or removed?
 - c. Have the number of clients being served per quarter decreased or increased in the 4th year?
 - d. Is there anything in particular you want to share about your current program to explain its current status?

HELPING HAND PREGNANCY CENTER
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REVIEW OF WORK PLAN & CLIENT SERVICES

5-20-2016

Our 2012-16 PA Grant responsibilities as detailed in the annual work plans were achieved.

These activities were thoughtfully designed to support, encourage and assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term, improve pregnancy outcomes, support parenting efforts, and improve family stability and self-sufficiency.

Overall, we primarily assisted pregnant and mothers of babies <12 months by helping them identify their unmet needs through Case Management, and begin activities which work toward meeting those needs. Essentially we've provided a framework to improve child well-being, quality of life for individuals, couples, and the family unit by encouraging growth, health, improved relationships, stability, and self-sufficiency.

The efforts of our “**Targeted Outreach of Pregnant / Parenting Young Adults**” was an innovative activity added during this grant cycle, and will continue with slight alterations in 2016-19.

We feel there is great potential in our area for increased service delivery in the area of **Child Passenger Safety** if opportunities for employees to obtain proper credentials as Car Seat Technician/ Practitioners would be available nearby, and on a regular basis.

Worthington, MN is a very diverse community. Our bi-lingual work plan activities have been valuable and successful, and have helped to resolve health disparities to mothers and children who are often vulnerable new immigrants.

Because the barriers of poverty, anxiety, and oppression are even larger than we previously thought, our future strategy will be to design more effective client services, for those who have only received 3-4 years of elementary education before immigrating. Difficulties to parent effectively while having extremely low literacy & overall education level are many and daily.

Our work plans for this Grant Cycle have been ambitious and multi-faceted. It has been our pleasure to partner with many like-minded community organizations to achieve our goals. We are confident that they were accomplished, and PA Grant funds have been spent wisely.

In the 2016-19 Grant Cycle, we plan to expand our work-plan, and utilize additional staff and more professional employees to continue to provide Positive Alternatives to Abortion.

3. Fiscal Review

- Review of the 2015-16 expenditures spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.
Funding for the PA by HH was in agreement with the spreadsheet sent by Ellen Heit.
- Have you revised your 2015-16 budget justification?
A budget revision was sent in this spring and has been approved.
- Any questions on your completion of the 2014-16 grant and your budget?

4. Do you have any questions on the findings from your **Financial Reconciliation**?

Funds will be available until the end of the grant. No questions from the FR.

5. Grant Closeout Form

- You will have an opportunity to review a draft of the Grant Closeout Form.

6. 2015-16 Evaluation - Due June 10th

- Your 2015-16 Evaluation Plan will be discussed. Any suggestions provided in your 2013-14 Report Summary should be included in the plan, if you are continuing the same evaluation.

Topic for this year's evaluation project will be nutrition with the programming – *My Plate*. Toby Spanier has been subcontracted to help with the evaluation plan and report. Reports are due June 10th.

- Any questions on the expectations of the report or your organization's evaluation plan for 2015-16?

None at this time.

7. Positive Alternatives website

- The PA website will be reconfigured once contracts are all signed.
- Resources for grantees will remain basically the same.
- WRTK booklet revisions have not yet been completed.

All updates are in the process of being completed.

8. Grant Manager Updates

Updates were given on new yearly budgets for the upcoming 2016-19 grant cycle. Last grant cycles budgets were for two years. PA policies are in the process of being revised and updated. Most of the revised policies will be available with the material handouts for the new grant cycle. A director's and staff grant administration webinar will be available by webinar for all grantees for the new grant cycle on Thursday, July 14th in the morning. Details will be sent soon.

9. Issues specific to this grantee

The big challenge facing this grantee is the large influx of immigrant population to the area in recent years. Most of the materials available for pregnancy and parenting education are not suitable for this population. They are Spanish speaking and mostly illiterate. Providing materials that work for this population tends to be time consuming and financially straining.

10. Facility

- If your facility has been remodeled or updated please give an update. Do you have any plans to move your organization to another building in the near future?

This grantee owns the building they occupy. They are adding new double doors for handicap access to their site. The staff would like to be more strategically located in the area but that is probably not an option at the present time.

- If grant-funded activity areas have been significantly altered, be prepared to discuss.

11. Health Equity is a priority goal at the Minnesota Department of Health. How is your organization addressing this need?

This grantee has been addressing and trying to conquer the immigrant situation in their area of rural southwestern Minnesota. They have not solved the problem but are attempting to be part of the solution.

12. What are the new unaddressed needs in the communities you serve?

A bid unmet need in for this grantee is that current immigrant clients lose their health care coverage after 6 weeks of birth.

- Do you have a well-developed and up-to-date list of community partners available?
This grantee is well established in the area and has a great partnership with many like-minded local agencies.
- Are you able to make warm referrals to any of these partners?
Yes, in this small community agency staff know one another.

13. Clients stories (along with client data collection) are an important component of the work we do. Client stories fill in the gaps that data can't detail and humanize the efforts made by all grantees.

- **Have you submitted your PA funded client stories yet?**
No, not yet. Staff will submit their client story soon.

14. How can MDH be more supportive of your program?

It was suggested that more collaboration for all PA grantees would be most helpful.

15. Other?

Helping Hand Pregnancy Center has been a long time PA grantee that has had unique programming challenges with the recent arrival of the large immigrant population to the area. Program focus has had to shift to accommodate the needs of the community. HH has made great strides forward with their assessment of the public health needs of their clients and the needs of the community. They have continued to be proactive and at the forefront in addressing the changing needs of their clients.

Site Visit Date: May 20, 2016

Center: Helping Hand Pregnancy Center

Grantee Staff: Susan Voehl

Positive Alternatives Grant Manager: Mary Ottman